

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of reducing voice frame network inbound traffic congestion, the method comprising:

determining whether a first defined threshold level of inbound voice and data traffic is reached, such that the threshold is examined after the arrival of each packet to a single input queue; ~~and if so then~~

if the first defined threshold is reached, then discriminating between inbound voice traffic and data traffic within the single input queue, wherein voice traffic comprises packets of voice-encoded data; and

freeing space within the input queue for use by inbound voice traffic by eliminating data traffic until the first defined threshold level of inbound traffic no longer is reached.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said freeing space is performed until a second defined threshold level of inbound traffic is reached, the second defined threshold level being less than the first defined threshold level.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said discriminating includes first analyzing the size of each packet of inbound voice and data traffic within the input queue and comparing the same to predefined packet size criteria to identify voice traffic.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said discriminating further includes second analyzing the rate at which packets of inbound voice and data traffic arrive in the input queue and comparing the same to predefined arrival rate criteria to identify voice traffic.
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (original) The method of claim 1, which further comprises:
providing a user interface configured for setting the first defined threshold level.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said freeing space is performed until a second defined threshold level of inbound traffic is reached, the second defined threshold level being less than the first defined threshold level, which further comprises prior to said determining:

providing a user interface that permits a user to define the first and second defined threshold levels.

9. (currently amended) Apparatus for use with a single input queue representing inbound voice and data traffic on a voice frame network, the apparatus comprising:

decision logic determining whether a first defined threshold level of inbound voice and data traffic represented in the single input queue is reached upon the reception of each packet of the traffic; and

queue management logic responsive to an affirmative determination from said decision logic, said queue management logic discriminating between inbound voice traffic comprised of encoded voice data and data traffic within the input queue and freeing space within the input queue for use by inbound voice traffic by eliminating data traffic until the first defined threshold level of inbound voice and data traffic no longer is reached.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said queue management logic frees space until a second defined threshold level of inbound traffic is reached, the second defined threshold level being less than the first defined threshold level.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, which further comprises:
a user interface that permits a user to define the first and second defined threshold levels.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said decision logic includes an analyzer of the size of each packet of inbound voice and data traffic within the input queue and a comparator of the same to predefined packet size criteria to identify voice traffic.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said decision logic includes an analyzer of the rate at which packets of inbound voice and data traffic arrive in the input queue and a comparator of the same to predefined arrival rate criteria.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for reducing voice frame network inbound traffic congestion, the program comprising:

instructions for determining whether a first defined threshold level of inbound voice and data traffic is reached in a single input queue upon the arrival of each packet of traffic and if so then signaling such determination; and

instructions responsive to the signaling for discriminating between inbound voice traffic comprised of encoded voice data and data traffic within a single input queue and for discarding data traffic thereby to free space within the input queue for use by inbound voice traffic until the first defined threshold level of inbound traffic no longer is reached.

17. (original) The program of claim 16 wherein the discarding of data is performed until a second defined threshold level of inbound traffic is reached, the second defined threshold level being less than the first defined threshold level.

18. (original) The program of claim 17, which further comprises:

instructions defining a user interface for permitting a user to set the first and second defined threshold levels.

19. (currently amended) The program of claim 16 wherein the discriminating includes first analyzing the size of each packet of inbound voice and data traffic within the input queue and comparing the same to predefined packet size criteria to identify voice traffic.

20. (currently amended) The program of claim 19 wherein the discriminating includes second analyzing the rate at which packets of inbound voice and data traffic arrive in the

input queue and comparing the same to predefined arrival rate criteria to identify voice traffic.

21. (currently amended) Apparatus for reducing voice frame network inbound traffic congestion, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining whether a first defined threshold level of inbound voice and data traffic is reached in a single input queue upon arrival of each packet and if so then signaling such determination; and

means responsive to the signaling for discriminating between inbound voice traffic comprised of encoded voice data and data traffic within the single input queue and for discarding data traffic thereby to free space within the input queue for use by inbound voice traffic until the first defined threshold level of inbound traffic no longer is reached, said discriminating means including means for first analyzing the size of each packet of inbound voice and data traffic within the input queue and means for first comparing the same to predefined packet size criteria to identify voice traffic, wherein the discarding of data is performed until a second defined threshold level of inbound traffic is reached, the second defined threshold level being less than the first defined threshold level.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said discriminating means further includes means for second analyzing the rate at which packets of inbound voice and data traffic arrive in the input queue and means for second comparing the same to predefined arrival rate criteria to identify voice traffic.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, which further comprises:

user interface means for permitting a user to set the first and second defined threshold levels.